United Nations S/2018/229

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 15 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has been striving to restore security and stability for Syrian citizens in the eastern Ghutah region. On Thursday, 15 March 2018, in order to escape the clutches of the armed terrorist groups, some 40,000 civilians fled Ghutah and sought the embrace of the Syrian State. That exodus gives lie to all the misinformation campaigns that have been waged over the past few days and the rumours that were spread by the armed terrorist groups about the residents of Ghutah. As they left, the civilians expressed relief at escaping from the hell created by the armed terrorist groups and affirmed their confidence in the State, which will ensure a decent life for them.

In view of these critical developments, the Syrian Government is now opening the door wide to the United Nations and its Member States to provide emergency humanitarian assistance and any other resources that those civilians might need to overcome their hardships and return to their homes in eastern Ghutah as soon as possible.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls upon Member States, the Secretariat and international humanitarian organizations to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to those civilians.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-04376 (E) 230318 230318

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United Nations S/2018/230

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 March 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 16 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following the previous letters that I have addressed to you regarding the repeated and continuing terrorist attacks by armed terrorist groups on the city of Damascus and its suburbs, and upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit herewith a table clarifying the numbers of civilians killed and injured as a result of rocket-propelled grenades and mortar shells launched by armed terrorist groups against safe neighbourhoods in Damascus and its suburbs on 6 and 7 March 2018. These terrorist attacks have killed and wounded many civilians, mostly children and women, and caused serious damage to public and private property and infrastructure.

Date	*Number of rocket-propelled grenades and mortar shells launched*	*Number of civilians killed*	*Number of civilians injured*
6 March 2018	30	3	18
7 March 2018	31	–	10
Total	**61**	**3**	**28**

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-04272 (E) 210318

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United Nations S/2018/231

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 16 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

For years, civilians have been starved, used as human shields and denied humanitarian assistance, all the while being deceitfully and hypocritically invoked as a pretext before the international community. In recent days, in the eastern Ghutah, the Syrian Arab Republic has lifted the lid on the greatest instance of mendacity and guile perpetrated by the armed terrorist groups. Our armed forces have been evacuating and moving to safe accommodation thousands of Syrian civilians who had been besieged from within in the Ghutah. The competent authorities continue to provide food, medicine, health care and social assistance to those people, who suffered for several years under the terrorist yoke.

Using a combination of shells, snipers, threats and misinformation regarding the Syrian army and State, the armed terrorist groups tried desperately to stop those thousands of people from leaving. The fact that they have now left in full view of the media shows that the reports circulated with howls of outrage by certain States were only lies and hypocrisy. The truth became clear when thousands of civilians travelled on foot from the terrorists' areas into the care of the Syrian Arab Army and its allies and supporting forces. The rhetoric that was deployed over the last seven years by the groups and their State sponsors in the region and the West has been shown up.

The Syrian Arab Republic is prepared to provide all of the needs of its citizens, wherever they may be. It also wishes to remind the United Nations and its relief agencies of their responsibilities. If they really care about civilian lives, and if they really want to help, they must send assistance to the areas of Rif Dimashq where the civilians are currently sheltering.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-04337 (E) 210318 220318

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